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[Type of Document] Specification

[Title of the Invention] CAMERA APPARATUS AND METHOD OF
TAKING PICTURES

[SCOPE OF PATENT CLAIM]

5 [CLAIM 1] A camera apparatus, comprising:

a camera unit which acquires an image;

a line-of-sight detection unit which detects a
point of eye fixation of a user within a camera screen;

an importance computation unit which

10 determines levels of importance for respective areas of
the image acquired by said camera unit in accordance
with the detection by said line-of-sight detection unit;
and

a number-of-gray-scale-level determining unit

15 which changes a number of gray scale levels for the
respective areas of the image in response to the
determination by the importance computation unit.

[CLAIM 2] A camera apparatus, comprising:

a camera unit which acquires an image;

20 a line-of-sight detection unit which detects a
point of eye fixation of a user within a camera screen;

an importance computation unit which

determines levels of importance for respective areas of
the image acquired by said camera unit in accordance
25 with the detection by said line-of-sight detection unit;

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and

a color interpolation processing unit which
changes color interpolation processing for the
respective areas of the image in response to the
5 determination by the importance computation unit.

[CLAIM 3] A camera apparatus, comprising:

a camera unit which acquires an image;

a line-of-sight detection unit which detects a
point of eye fixation of a user within a camera screen;

10 an importance computation unit which
determines levels of importance for respective areas of
the image acquired by said camera unit in accordance
with the detection by said line-of-sight detection unit;
and

15 a sharpness enhancement processing unit which
changes sharpness enhancement processing for the
respective areas of the image in response to the
determination by the importance computation unit.

[CLAIM 4] A camera apparatus, comprising:

20 a camera unit which acquires an image;

a line-of-sight detection unit which detects a
point of eye fixation of a user within a camera screen;

an importance computation unit which
determines levels of importance for respective areas of
25 the image acquired by said camera unit in accordance

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a noise removal processing unit which changes noise removal processing for the respective areas of the image in response to the determination by the importance computation unit.

[CLAIM 6] The camera device as claimed in claim 2,
wherein said color interpolation processing unit
performs first processing in a first area, and performs
15 second processing in a second area that has a smaller
level of importance than the first area, the first
processing generating an image having higher quality
than the second processing, and the second processing
being faster than the first processing.

20 [CLAIM 7] The camera device as claimed in claim3,
wherein the sharpness processing unit performs first
processing in a first area, and performs second
processing in a second area that has a smaller level of
importance than the first area, the first processing
25 generating an image having higher quality than the

second processing, and the second processing being faster than the first processing.

[CLAIM 8] The camera device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said noise removal processing unit performs

5 first processing in a first area, and performs second processing in a second area that has a smaller level of importance than the first area, the first processing generating an image having higher quality than the second processing, and the second processing being
10 faster than the first processing.

[CLAIM 9] A camera apparatus, comprising:

a camera unit which acquires an image;

a line-of-sight detection unit which detects a point of eye fixation of a user within a camera screen;

15 an importance computation unit which determines levels of importance for respective areas of the image acquired by said camera unit in accordance with the detection by said line-of-sight detection unit; and

20 an image processing unit which performs at least one of processing of changing a number of gray scale levels for the respective areas of the image, processing of changing color interpolation processing for the respective areas of the image, processing of
25 changing sharpness enhancement processing for the

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respective areas of the image, and processing of changing noise removal processing for the respective areas of the image in response to the determination by the importance computation unit.

- 5 [CLAIM 10] A method of acquiring an image, comprising
the steps of:
- acquiring an image;
 - detecting a point of eye fixation of a user
within a camera screen;
 - 10 determining levels of importance for
respective areas of the acquired image in accordance
with the detection of the point of eye fixation; and
changing a number of gray scale levels for the
respective areas of the image in response to the
15 determined levels of importance.
- [CLAIM 11] A method of acquiring an image, comprising
the steps of:
- acquiring an image;
 - detecting a point of eye fixation of a user
20 within a camera screen;
 - determining levels of importance for
respective areas of the acquired image in accordance
with the detection of the point of eye fixation; and
changing color interpolation processing for
25 the respective areas of the image in response to the

determined levels of importance.

[CLAIM 12] A method of acquiring an image, comprising the steps of:

- acquiring an image;
- 5 detecting a point of eye fixation of a user within a camera screen;
- determining levels of importance for respective areas of the acquired image in accordance with the detection of the point of eye fixation; and
- 10 changing sharpness enhancement processing for the respective areas of the image in response to the determined levels of importance.

[CLAIM 13] A method of acquiring an image, comprising the steps of:

- 15 acquiring an image;
- detecting a point of eye fixation of a user within a camera screen;
- determining levels of importance for respective areas of the acquired image in accordance
- 20 with the detection of the point of eye fixation; and
- changing noise removal processing for the respective areas of the image in response to the determined levels of importance.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

25 [Field of the Invention]

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